#### STATE OF NEW MEXICO

# ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING CALLED BY
THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR THE
PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING:

CASE NO. 14,006
APPLICATION OF THE NEW MEXICO OIL
CONSERVATION DIVISION FOR A COMPLIANCE
ORDER AGAINST CHAPARRAL ENERGY, LLC

# ORIGINAL

## REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

## EXAMINER HEARING

RECEIVED EB 29 PM. 1

BEFORE: DAVID K. BROOKS, Jr., Hearing Examiner

5

November 29th, 2007

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This matter came on for hearing before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division, DAVID K. BROOKS, Jr., Hearing Examiner, on Thursday, November 29th, 2007, at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources

Department, 1220 South Saint Francis Drive, Secretary's

Conference Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Steven T. Brenner,

Certified Court Reporter No. 7 for the State of New Mexico.

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## APPEARANCES

FOR THE APPLICANT:

SONNY SWAZO Assistant General Counsel Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department 1220 South St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

\* \* \*

1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had at 2 8:25 a.m.: EXAMINER BROOKS: At this time we'll call Case 3 Number 14,006, the Application of the New Mexico Oil 4 Conservation Division for a compliance order against 5 Chaparral Energy, LLC. 6 7 Call for appearances. MR. SWAZO: Sonny Swazo for the Oil Conservation 8 Division, Mr. Examiner. 9 10 Where would you like the parties to sit? EXAMINER BROOKS: Well, I would think -- The 11 12 witness is going to need to be over here. Somebody took the witness chair, but if you'll just move one of the other 13 chairs over to the table for the witness, or the witness 14 can just move his chair forward from where he was sitting 15 Witness brings his own chair. 16 before. And you need to have the examining attorney over 17 here next to the court reporter. 18 19 And if there are other appearances -- Is there 20 anyone else appearing? MR. SWAZO: Not on behalf of the Oil 21 Conservation, Division, but --22 23 MR. BROWN: I'm with Chaparral Energy. 24 EXAMINER BROOKS: And your name? 25 MR. BROWN: Ron Brown.

1	EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay. And are you going to
2	testify?
3	MR. BROWN: I'm going to testify.
4	EXAMINER BROOKS: You have how many witnesses?
5	MR. BROWN: Just the one witness.
6	EXAMINER BROOKS: Just the one witness, okay.
7	Witnesses need to be sworn.
8	(Thereupon, the witnesses were sworn.)
9	MR. SWAZO: Mr. Examiner, I'm not sure if any
10	other individuals need an exhibit list, but I can provide
11	that, I do have extras.
12	EXAMINER BROOKS: Well, the court reporter needs
13	one, and if you can provide if you have another set, you
14	can provide it to the court reporter. If you don't and
15	did you provide a set to the gentleman from Chaparral?
16	MR. SWAZO: Yes, I did, your Honor.
17	EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay. We'll let you have this
18	one
19	COURT REPORTER: Actually, I've got a set.
20	EXAMINER BROOKS: Oh, you've already got a set.
21	Oh, okay. Well then, we have one extra set. I'll give
22	that back to Mr. Swazo.
23	You may proceed, Mr. Swazo.
24	MR. SWAZO: Thank you, Mr. Hearing Examiner.
25	This case is about an operator that has not

completed or submitted a C-105 well completion report for the Roberts 13 001Y well in accordance with OCD Rule 19.15.13.1105.

That rule states, Within 20 days following the completion or recompletion of any well, the operator shall file Form C-105 with the Division.

The well in this case was completed sometime in 2006. According to operator's filed sundry notices and reports, the well was spud on May 18th, 2006, and the rig was released on May 23rd, 2006.

OCD learned of the well's existence and completion when OCD inspector Phil Hawkins inspected the well site on April 3rd, 2007. Inspector Hawkins observed the well to be drilled and active.

On July 12th, 2007, OCD sent operator a letter which informed operator that there was no well completion report for this well as required by Rule 1105. Operator was asked to submit a well completion report for this well by July 24th, 2007. OCD did not hear from operator, and operator did not file a well completion report as requested.

On August 8th, 2007, OCD sent operator a notice of violation, asking operator to contact OCD. Operator was informed that the violation was still continuing and needed to be corrected.

OCD did not hear from operator, and operator did not file a well completion report. OCD did not hear from operator until the Application in this case was filed.

In speaking with -- well, it's my understanding at this point, operator is representing that it intends to plug this well. And in any event, under Rule 1105, that rule requires operators to still file a well completion report, even if the well is a dry hole and the operator intends to plug the well.

Specifically, paragraph B of that rule states, In the case of a dry hole, a complete record of the well on Form C-105 with the above attachments shall accompany the notice of intention to plug the well unless previously filed. The plugging report will not be approved nor the bond released until this rule has been complied with.

What we are requesting in this case is, we are asking the Hearing -- asking you to find that operator knowingly and willfully violated Rule 1105. We are asking you to require operator file a C-105 well completion report by a date certain. And we are asking for the assessment of civil penalties for operator's knowing and willful violation of Rule 1105.

In this case we are asking for \$4000 in civil penalties. The amount is based on each month that operator withheld filing the C-105 well completion report after

being advised to do so in July, 2007. 1 And if you -- included in your exhibit packet is 2 my affidavit of notice and publication -- and that's 3 Exhibit Number 1 -- showing that I did provide Chaparral 4 Energy, LLC, with notice of this hearing, and that the 5 hearing was published in the Artesia Daily Press. 6 And with that, I'd like to begin. 7 8 EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay, you may proceed. 9 DANIEL SANCHEZ, the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon 10 his oath, was examined and testified as follows: 11 DIRECT EXAMINATION 12 BY MR. SWAZO: 13 Would you please state your name for the record? 14 Q. Α. Daniel Sanchez. 15 And Mr. Sanchez, with whom are you employed? 16 Q. The New Mexico Oil Conservation Division. 17 Α. 18 Q. And what's your title with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division? 19 20 Α. I'm the compliance and enforcement manager. 21 Q. What do your job duties entail? 22 Α. I supervise the four district offices of the OCD, 23 Santa Fe, Artesia, Aztec and Hobbs, the Environmental Bureau here in Santa Fe. I'm the UIC program director, and 24 25 I oversee compliance and enforcement cases.

1	Q.	Do you know where this well is located within the
2	state?	
3	Α.	It's in Eddy County.
4	Q.	And that's New Mexico?
5	Α.	Yes.
6	Q.	And that would be one of the areas under your
7	enforceme	ent jurisdiction?
8	Α.	Yes.
9	Q.	As part of your duties, have you reviewed the OCD
10	records a	and the OCD well file for the Roberts 13 Number
11	001Y well	.?
12	Α.	Yes, I have.
13	Q.	Are those records kept by OCD in the normal
14	course of	business?
15	Α.	Yes, they are.
16	Q.	Are those records available to the public at the
17	OCD websi	te?
18	Α.	Yes.
19	Q.	Are any of the records documents filed by
20	operators	?
21	А.	All those documents should be filed by the
22	operator.	
23	Q.	When you reviewed the records, did you notice
24	whether o	perator applied for a permit to drill the well?
25	Α.	Yes, they did.

And I will draw your attention to Exhibit Number Q. 1 2 Can you identify that exhibit? Yes, that's a Form C-101. That's the application 3 4 for permit to drill. 5 0. And who filed that? 6 Α. Chaparral Energy. 7 On what date did they file that? 0. May 24th, 2006. Α. 8 I will refer to this exhibit as an APD. 9 Q. Does the APD indicate when the well was spudded? 10 Α. Yes, it does. That was May 18th, 2006. 11 And on what date did OCD approve this 12 0. application? 13 May 24th, '06. 14 Α. 15 0. If you would turn to Exhibit Number 3, are you familiar with OCD Rule 19.15.13.1105? 16 17 A. Yes, I am. Q. And would you identify this exhibit? 18 19 Α. The exhibit is a copy of that rule, 1105, and 20 that's a well completion or recompletion report and log, 21 Form C-105. 22 Q. What does Rule 1105 require an operator to do after a well is completed? 23 24 Within 20 days of its completion, the operator is 25 required to submit a C-105 to the District Office.

1	Q. And	do you know at what point a well is
2	considered con	mpleted?
3	A. Spea	aking to our Artesia district personnel, they
4	consider it co	ompleted when the rig is released.
5	Q. Did	operator file a well completion report within
6	the 20 days re	equired under the rule?
7	A. No,	they didn't.
8	Q. Has	operator filed the well completion report for
9	this well?	
10	A. Not	as of today.
11	Q. Does	s Rule 1105 require anything in regards to a
12	dry hole?	
13	A. In	the case of a dry hole, a C-105 is to be
14	submitted alor	ng with the application for or the intent
15	to plug the we	≥11 <b>.</b>
16	Q. Have	e OCD inspectors inspected the well?
17	A. Yes	, they have.
18	Q. Are	such inspections documented?
19	A. Yes,	, they are.
20	Q. Does	S OCD keep records of the inspections?
21	A. Yes.	, ,
22	Q. Are	the records made in the normal course of
23	business?	
24	A. Yes,	they are.
25	Q. Was	a record of OCD's inspection of this well

made? 1 Α. Yes. 2 And if I can have you turn to Exhibit Number 4 --Q. 3 Α. Okay. 4 -- can you please identify the exhibit? Q. 5 This is the well inspection history for the Α. 6 Roberts 13. 7 What does the well inspection history show? Q. 8 Α. It gives the dates that an inspection took place. 9 In this case, the first date was April 3rd of 2007, and 10 there are notes on the inspection, and there's one where 11 Mr. Hawkins wrote in where the well is drilled and active 12 and the location is okay. 13 There were two other entries after that, both on 14 the same date, July 12th, 2007, the first one showing that 15 a review of the well file for this well shows no completion 16 report or request for allowable as required by OCD Rule 17 19.15.13.1105 and 1104. 18 And the second note from that day was that a road 19 was too wet to get into the location, it looks like pumping 20 unit has already been removed from the location. 21 Q. Did OCD do anything to get operator to comply 22 with Rule 1105? 23 Yes, they were contacted and issued a letter of 24 Α.

25

violation.

1	Q. And I will have you turn to Exhibit Number 5.
2	Could you please identify that exhibit?
3	A. That is the letter of violation that went out on
4	July 12th of '07 to Chaparral.
5	Q. And what's the purpose of a letter of violation?
6	A. It's to inform an operator that they may be in
7	violation of a rule and that corrective action is required.
8	Q. Did the LOV in this case inform operator what it
9	was required to do to come into compliance with Rule 1105?
10	A. Yes, it did, it informed them that the C-105 was
11	overdue.
12	Q. Did it give them a date to correct the problem?
13	A. Yeah, they were given until July 24th, 12 days
14	after the letter, to comply.
15	Q. Did OCD get a response from operator to this
16	letter?
17	A. No, they didn't.
18	Q. Did operator file the C-105 well completion
19	report for this well?
20	A. No.
21	Q. Did OCD do anything else to get the operator to
22	comply with Rule 1105?
23	A. Yes, after they got not response to the letter of
24	violation, a notice of violation was issued on August 8th
25	of 2007, regarding the same issue.

And I'll have you turn to Exhibit Number 6. 1 Q. you identify the exhibit? 2 Α. That exhibit is the notice of violation that was 3 issued to Chaparral, LLC, on August 8th of 2007. 4 And who sent out that notice of violation? 5 0. Α. I did. 7 Q. And was it sent certified letter? Yes, it was. 8 Α. To which addresses? 9 Q. There were two addresses that this went to. 10 Α. 11 There was a Chaparral Energy, LLC, 701 Cedar Lake Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and the other was care 12 of Capital Document Services, 55 Old Santa Fe Trail, Second 13 Floor, Santa Fe, New Mexico. 14 Q. Did the receipts come back returned? 15 Yes, we had one that returned and signed by 16 17 someone that was from the Cedar Lake Boulevard, Oklahoma City, address, and it was signed by an Alishea Olinger, and 18 19 the other address was return to sender, insufficient address, unable to forward. 20 21 Did operator respond to this notice of violation? Q. No. 22 Α. 23 Q. Did operator file the C-105 well completion report for this well? 24 25 Α. No.

1 Q. Did OCD take any further enforcement action? 2 A. Yes, we went ahead and requested this hearing. 3 Q. Have you ever spoken with anyone from Chaparral Energy about this violation? 4 5 Yes, a Mr. David Spencer. After the hearing was filed, we talked to Mr. Spencer on September 14th of '07. 6 7 Q. And what did he say? He informed us that the well was going to be 8 plugged and that the letters not being returned or 9 responded to was something had just fallen through the 10 cracks, that they were having personnel issues, and they 11 felt that they didn't receive the letters at the 12 appropriate office. 13 And you said that this was after the Application 14 Q. had been filed in this case? 15 16 Α. Yes. 17 Q. Now I will refer you to Exhibit 7, 8, 9 and 10. Can you please identify those exhibits? 18 19 Α. Exhibit 7 is a C-103 notice of intent that was 20 submitted on July 1st of '06. It was rejected because it didn't have any information on what the intent was for. 21 On Exhibit 8, that is a C-103 subsequent report 22 of a casing and cement job that was submitted on October 23 19th of '06. 24 Exhibit 9 is another C-103 subsequent report of 25

1 casing and cement job. It was a continuation of that one, and also submitted on October 19th. 2 And Exhibit Number 10 is a C-103 notice of intent 3 to plug, and that was issued on October 1st of '07. 4 If you'll go back to Exhibit Number 7, does that 5 exhibit indicate when the well was spudded? 6 Yes, it does. It was spudded on May 18th, 2006. 7 Α. 0. Does that exhibit indicate when the rig was 8 released? 9 A. May 23rd, 2006. 10 And that's a document that Chaparral submitted --11 0. 12 Α. Yes. -- correct? 13 Q. Who submitted Exhibits 7 through 10? 14 15 Α. They were signed by Evelyn -- Evelyn Smith, 16 although there's a different -- Chaparral submitted --17 there was a different signer on 8 and 9, a Traci Cornish, and on Exhibit 10 it was David Spencer. 18 19 Q. In this case the application -- in your application you were asking the Hearing Examiner to assess 20 civil penalties. What penalty amount do you recommend? 21 22 Α. We're recommending \$4000, based on \$1000 for each 23 month that Chaparral failed to respond after the initial letter of violation went out. 24

25

Q.

Are you requesting anything else with regard to

1 the C-105? 2 Α. Well, a date certain for Chaparral to submit the 3 C-105. MR. SWAZO: At this time, Mr. Hearing Examiner, I 4 don't have any further questions, but at this time I would 5 make a motion to admit the exhibits. 6 7 EXAMINER BROOKS: Exhibits 1 through 10? MR. SWAZO: That's correct. 8 EXAMINER BROOKS: I'm sorry, Mr. -- I didn't get 9 your name. 10 MR. BROWN: Ron Brown. 11 12 EXAMINER BROOKS: Mr. Brown. Any objection to the exhibits, Mr. Brown? 13 14 MR. BROWN: No objection. 15 EXAMINER BROOKS: Exhibits 1 through 10 are admitted. 16 17 MR. SWAZO: With that, the Applicant would pass the witness. 18 19 EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay, Mr. Brown, do you wish to 20 question Mr. Sanchez? MR. BROWN: No, I don't. 21 22 EXAMINER BROOKS: Very good, witness may -- Well, 23 witness may stand down and move back to your chair and let 24 Mr. Brown take the chair closest to the court reporter. 25 MR. SWAZO: I don't have any further questions --

1	or no further witnesses, Mr. Hearing Examiner, and the
2	Applicant rests its case.
3	EXAMINER BROOKS: Very good. Mr. Brown? Do you
4	wish to make a statement, Mr. Brown?
5	MR. BROWN: I wish to make a statement, and I
6	wish to turn in what thought was mailed in. I have a copy
7	of the C-105.
8	EXAMINER BROOKS: Very good.
9	MR. BROWN: I only have two of them, but
10	EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay.
11	MR. BROWN: I thought I had three, but somehow
12	I only have two.
13	EXAMINER BROOKS: The rules require these to be
14	filed in the District Office. I will let you work that out
15	with
16	MR. BROWN: Right.
17	EXAMINER BROOKS: Mr. Sanchez, though.
18	MR. BROWN: Right.
19	EXAMINER BROOKS: You may proceed.
20	RON BROWN,
21	the witness herein, after having been first duly sworn upon
22	his oath, testified as follows:
23	DIRECT TESTIMONY
24	BY MR BROWN:
25	MR. BROWN: I'm Ron Brown, the production

engineer for Chaparral. And I thought that David had filed 1 the C-105. 2 EXAMINER BROOKS: And would that be Mr. Spencer? 3 THE WITNESS: Mr. Spencer, yes. 4 5 EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay, go ahead. 6 THE WITNESS: We found out after we got -- and we 7 had received -- Alishea Olinger, our mail clerk, did sign for the letters, they were in our office, and they were in 8 9 David's office. He had just misplaced them. 10 So you know, we're not here to contest that we did wrong. We're trying to -- His assistant was out at 11 that time, and so some of the stuff didn't get done that we 12 didn't -- we thought was being done. 13 He signed the C-105 on November 5th, and I 14 thought he mailed it, but this is the copy that was in our 15 file. 16 17 We have -- The other question on the lease was whether -- why we haven't already plugged the well by a 18 19 certain length of time, the state gave us a length of time. 20 We have tried to plug the well, we have a 21 contract with the plugger. We contacted five different 22 plugging companies. This is the first one we can get 23 available, and it will be plugged in mid-February. And I have a copy of the plugging request here, 24 25 if you want that -- I mean the plugging procedure --

1	EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay
2	THE WITNESS: from the from the plugging
3	company.
4	EXAMINER BROOKS: Would you mark that as an
5	exhibit for us?
6	THE WITNESS: I left my pen in my briefcase.
7	Sorry about that.
8	This would be Exhibit 11?
9	EXAMINER BROOKS: Well, mark it as Chaparral
10	Exhibit 1.
11	THE WITNESS: Okay.
12	And each exhibit has a copy of the C-105 on it.
13	EXAMINER BROOKS: Okay, very good.
14	THE WITNESS: And give one to
15	EXAMINER BROOKS: Give one to Mr. Swazo and one
16	to me and one to the court reporter.
17	Okay, thank you.
18	THE WITNESS: There was also a question about the
19	integrity of the well as far as protection of freshwater
20	during this time of waiting until we got it plugged, so I'd
21	present Exhibit 2, which is fluid level, showing that
22	there's no you know, the fluid level in the well is
23	three hundred or 3400 feet from the surface.
24	So that we're not damag no possibility of
25	damaging the fresh water while we wait for the plugging to

```
take place.
 1
                And I'll -- Exhibit 2.
 2
                And that's all I have, unless you have any
 3
     questions.
 4
                EXAMINER BROOKS: Are you offering Exhibits 1 and
 5
     2 in evidence?
 6
 7
                THE WITNESS: Yes.
 8
                EXAMINER BROOKS: Any objection, Mr. Swazo?
 9
                MR. SWAZO: No objection.
10
                EXAMINER BROOKS: Chaparral Exhibits 1 and 2 are
11
     admitted.
12
                Do you have any questions for Mr. Brown, Mr.
     Swazo?
13
               MR. SWAZO: I don't have any questions.
14
                              EXAMINATION
15
16
     BY EXAMINER BROOKS:
17
               This casing that was set at 8890, it looks like
          Q.
     that was the third string?
18
          Α.
               That is correct.
19
20
               And that -- was that the projected total depth of
          0.
     the well?
21
22
          Α.
               Yes, it was.
23
          Q.
               And did you perforate it for production?
24
          Α.
               We perforated two different zones, and I pump
25
     test both of them noncommercially.
```

Not a very good deal, have to set pipe and Q. 1 perforate to figure out you've got a dry hole. 2 Α. That's true. 3 Okay, I think that's all my -- Well, no, let me 4 get the inspection -- the dates here. 5 Now I didn't understand for sure what you said 6 about OCD Exhibit 5. 7 Did you receive OCD Exhibit 5, the letter of 8 violation? 9 10 Α. Yes. And when did you receive that? 11 0. Let me go back to that. It was received when it 12 13 was sent --14 0. It's dated ---- because we signed it in. 15 OCD Exhibit 5 is dated July 12, 2007. Do you 16 Q. have any records from which you can ascertain when you 17 received it? 18 The only record we would have is notice that our 19 mail clerk signed it. 20 Okay, the OCD Exhibit -- the postage receipt is 21 attached to OCD Exhibit Number 6, which is the notice of 22 violation. 23 Oh, okay. 24 Α. That's the second notice. And there does not 25 Q.

1	appear to be The date of delivery on the receipt is not
2	filled in.
3	A. Yeah, I'm not aware of when we actually received
4	it. We did find it in the office.
5	Q. Now you're talking about OCD Exhibit 5 or OCD
6	Exhibit 6?
7	A. Both.
8	Q. Okay, so both of them were in the office
9	A. Yes.
10	Q at that time?
11	Now did you When did you first become aware of
12	OCD Exhibit 5?
13	A. When the when we received notice of this
14	hearing.
15	Q. Okay, and when did you first become aware of OCD
16	Exhibit 6?
17	A. At that same time.
18	Q. And when would that have been? Do you remember
19	the date?
20	A. It was in I was thinking it was in October,
21	but I don't remember the exact date.
22	EXAMINER BROOKS: Very good. No further
23	questions.
24	MR. SWAZO: I did have two questions.
25	EXAMINER BROOKS: Go ahead.

### CROSS-EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. SWAZO:

- Q. Mr. Brown, do you know what date the well was completed?
- A. The well -- the well was completed on -- well, I released the service unit on 1-26-07, from testing the last zone.
  - Q. So the well was completed on January 26th, 2007?
  - A. That last zone, yes.
  - Q. And how come Chaparral did not file a C-105?
- A. We thought he had. We changed -- Our engineering techs, up through doing the C-103s, were doing -- filing our New Mexico paperwork.

We merged, or bought another company in May -actually bought it in -- and -- final close in May. And
during that time they set up the new regulatory department
to do the paperwork, which is David Spencer, and everything
was turned over to him, and it just didn't get done.

- Q. You said you thought he had done it. Who's "he"?
- A. That's David Spencer.
- Q. And it appears that Chaparral actually spudded the well before the APD was approved. Why was that?
- A. This was a replacement well, the Roberts 1 13 set -- drilled out from under the conductor and lost the hole. It started washing out. We skidded the rig, had

1 verbal approval from the field inspector, and filed the 2 paperwork. We skidded it on a weekend and started spudding and then filed the paperwork on Monday. 3 4 MR. SWAZO: I don't have any further questions. EXAMINER BROOKS: Very good. If there's nothing 5 6 further -- Did you have anything to add, Mr. --THE WITNESS: 7 EXAMINER BROOKS: -- Brown? 8 9 Very good, if there's nothing further, Case Number 14,006 will be taken under advisement. 10 I would suggest you get together with Mr. 11 Sanchez, Mr. Brown, and arrange to file the original C-105. 12 (Thereupon, these proceedings were concluded at 13 14 8:55 a.m.) 15 16 17 I do hareby certify that the foregoing 18 a complete record of the proceedings in 19 the Examiner hearing of Case No. 14006 heard by me on 20 21 Oil Conservation Division Examlana 22 23 24 25

### CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO )
) ss.
COUNTY OF SANTA FE )

I, Steven T. Brenner, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing transcript of proceedings before the Oil Conservation Division was reported by me; that I transcribed my notes; and that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties or attorneys involved in this matter and that I have no personal interest in the final disposition of this matter.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL February 22nd, 2008.

STEVEN T. BRENNER

CCR No. 7

My commission expires: October 16th, 2010